

## CONFESSIONS OF A WIFE

### ALICE IN THE WITNESS CHAIR

"When I was called to the witness chair I did not know that I would soon be passing through the most awful ordeal of my life."

"With devilish ingenuity the prosecution never brought Harvey's name into the proceedings at all. It merely asked me if I had certain goods charged to the account of Harvey."

"Yes, but—"

"That will do, take the witness," quickly said the opposing counsel.

"Even the judges looked a bit surprised, but my dear employer's lawyer got up and began to ask questions."

"He brought out my whole story, and at times I was almost sure even Harvey's father winced."

"Did you expect to marry this man when at his request you charged the furnishings of the apartment to him?"

"I object, your honor. We have only the defendant's word as to the request."

"Objection sustained," said the court.

"Then my lawyer put the question in another form:

"Had the complainant's son ever asked you specifically to be his wife?"

"Yes, sir."

"And you bought the furnishings of this apartment because you expected to marry him shortly?"

"Yes, sir."

"He wanted you to rent it?"

"Yes, sir. He was with me when we rented it and told me to charge the goods I obtained at his father's store to him."

"Did he ever go with you—?"

"Yes, sir. He went with me the first time and told the clerk I was a professional decorator who was fitting up some rooms for him and that anything I had charged to him was all right."

"Have you seen him since you left the apartment?"

"No, sir."

"Do you know where he is now?"

"No, sir," I answered, and then fainted.

"After I recovered the judge asked me if I felt able to go on, and although I thought I would die before the session was over, I said yes, because I felt I must get the ordeal over as soon as possible."

"Did you know that the goods were being charged to Harvey —, Sr.'s account?"

"No, sir. Harvey told me that he had told his father that he was bored to death with his mother and the girls of society and that he was going to set up a bachelor apartment of his own."

"There was a slight titter in the courtroom, which the judge promptly stopped by the bringing down of his gavel sharply."

"When did you realize that you possibly might not be going to marry the young man?"

"The first night he came to see the house he told me that both his father and mother insisted he should marry—" (Do you know, little book, I was glad Alice told that girl's name out in court and I hope the significance of it got under her skin.)

"Again there was a titter," continued Alice, "and I felt I was a cat, but I could not help it, Mrs. Waverly. I could not help it."

"I am glad you did not, I answered, heartily, with unholy glee."

"Did he tell you then that he thought he could never marry you?"

"No, sir; he said that he would marry only me if he had to stay single until both his father and mother died."

"There was a gasp from his mother and a snort from his father at this."

"Did he come to the apartment after this?"

"Yes; almost daily."